of the security deposit after obtaining the explanation of the Joint Secretary of the stores. Subsequently when the President of the stores explained the discrepancy and promised to examine the matter in detail and see that such complaints do not recur the Collector cancelled his previous orders."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it in the nature of a fine or in the nature of forfeiture? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" It is in the nature of a forfeiture, Sir."

Alleged petition against Sri Swetaranyam, Sub-Magistrate of Madurantakam.

* 64 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether Sri Swetaranyam was the Sub-Magistrate of Madurantakam till recently;

(b) whether petitions were received by the Collector of Chingleput district that he was corrupt and that he carried on his activities in the court premises which was also his residence;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Collector transferred him to Ponneri;

(d) whether the Government consider this transfer as sufficient action taken on the petitions received by the Collector; and

(e) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Yes.

" (c) Yes.

" (d) & (e) The matter is under consideration."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Are the Government aware that similar complaints were received by the Government against the same person when he was working at Ponneri? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I am not aware of that, Sir, but on the matter on hand, action is being taken."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Government have not received complaints against the same person when he was posted to Ponneri? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I have not got the information, but I shall look into it."

Settlement of ex-army men in Gudapakkam area.

* 65 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ordered the construction of twenty dwelling houses, two drinking water wells, and fifteen irrigation wells in the denuded areas of the forest in Gudapakkam;

(*b*) whether it is intended to settle ex-army men in this area;

(*c*) the total estimate of these constructions;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the subordinate officials in charge of the works have ordered the construction even before the Government's sanction was obtained;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that tenders were not called for and that written agreements were not entered into with the contractors before the work was started;

(*f*) whether it is the usual practice of the Government to order such a work involving more than a lakh of rupees without calling for any tenders, and without entering into any agreements;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that one Venkatarathnam Naidu, the Village Munsif of Gudapakkam was ordered to collect the necessary materials for the construction of all the works;

(*h*) whether subsequently the authorities have divided the fifteen houses to be constructed among three contractors at the rate of five for each;

(*i*) whether the constructions have been completed;

(*j*) whether the abovesaid Venkatarathnam Naidu is also one of the three contractors;

(*k*) whether, having completed the construction of five houses allotted to him, he gave registered notice to the Collector of Chingleput district, one by himself and the other through his lawyer for making good the losses sustained by him by collecting materials for all the constructions;

(*l*) whether these notices acknowledged by the Huzur Sarishtadar are missing in the office records;

(*m*) whether the Collector of Chingleput district has recommended to the Government to sanction the further construction of five buildings in order to make good the losses sustained by the abovesaid contractor; and

(*n*) whether the Government propose to make a thorough enquiry into this matter and make the officials responsible for it pay for the loss sustained by the contractors?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI (on behalf of the Prime Minister) :—"(*a*) The Government have sanctioned the construction of 15 dwelling houses, 2 drinking-water wells and 13 irrigation wells in the area.

"(*b*) The reply is in the affirmative.

"(*c*) The total estimate of these constructions is Rs. 81,800 as detailed below :—

	RS.
15 houses	30,000
2 drinking-water wells —	5,000
13 irrigation wells	46,800
	81,800

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" (*d*) The matter was reported to the Board of Revenue at all stages and the works started after personal inspection and orders of the Collector.

" (*e*) Tenders were not called for in view of the urgency of the works. Written agreements were obtained for each of the 5 houses constructed by two out of the three contractors, while the third refused to execute an agreement claiming that the entire contract for all the works should be given to him.

" (*f*) The answer is in the negative. As these were urgent works, tenders were not called for to save time.

" (*g*) & (*h*) The Army Pioneer Units had agreed to carry out reclamation, construction of houses and other works free of cost and the contract for the supply of materials required for the construction of 20 houses and sinking 1 drinking-water well by the Army was given to the village munsif in question. But as the Army Units had to leave the works unfinished being under orders of transfer, and as materials had also been collected, the construction of 15 houses was taken up in the first instance and 3 contractors were entrusted with the work with a view to speed up the construction of the houses.

" (*i*) Fifteen houses, one drinking-water well and seven irrigation wells have been completed.

" (*j*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*k*) Two petitions were received, one dated 11th April 1946 requesting that he be given the contract for all the works and another dated 2nd September 1946 claiming compensation for loss alleged to have been sustained.

" (*l*) The dates of the notices are not mentioned, but the petitions referred to in the answer to clause (*k*) above are in the records.

" (*m*) The Collector has recommended the construction of three more houses for utilizing the gathered materials. It is not for the specific purpose of making good any loss alleged to have been incurred by Sri Venkatarathnam Nayudu. The question whether the three more houses should be constructed is under consideration.

" (*n*) The question is under investigation."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether it is the practice of Government to give contracts without calling for tenders? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" No, Sir."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Then, why in this case a tender was not called for."

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" As I said, it is on account of the speed with which the house had to be constructed. That is all the information I have got but if the hon. Member wants more details, I shall require notice. "

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SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Is it the practice to allow village munsifs to take contracts from Government? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" It is not generally the case. But, I am prepared to go into this matter and inform the hon. Member."

Steel tyres for bullock carts.

* 66 *Q*.—SRI K. NATARAJAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that single bullock carts for hire in Tanjore city have not been able to secure steel cart tyres for over six years past ; and

(*b*) whether representations have been received from such cartmen's organization and what arrangements have been made to meet their requirements?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" (*a*) Supplies of single bullock cart tyres for Tanjore were made during the several quarters commencing from period III/1944 (July to September). So far Tanjore has received 77 tons of this material and 35 tons have been allotted for the current quarter.

" (*b*) A representation was recently received by the Government from Tanjore Cartmen's Union that they were not able to secure cart tyres for over four years. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to take necessary action on the representation."

Prohibition scheme in the Province.

* 67 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Hindu Religious Endowments be pleased to place on the table of the House the scheme to enforce Prohibition including the provision of counter attractions and the staff provided for the same?

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" A note [a] on the scheme to enforce Prohibition including the provision of counter attractions and the staff provided for the same is placed on the table of the House."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have issued orders prohibiting the tapping of sweet toddy? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Yes, only in certain cases but not in all cases. There are districts in which tapping of sweet toddy was prohibited. In Salem and Coimbatore, it was allowed under special conditions, viz., it was allowed in the case of organized co-operative societies. Now so far as tapping sweet toddy from coconut trees is concerned, it is prohibited throughout but it is not so in the case of palmyras and dates provided it is done by organized co-operative societies."

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 46—48 infra.